

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 15**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: APRIL 8, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: An Emmons County man died April 7 when snow drifts delayed an ambulance crew's response by one hour. The farmer is believed to have suffered a heart attack.

In Cass County, an elderly rural woman was treated for hypothermia after the weekend storm knocked out electrical power to her home. The woman and her brother were rescued by neighbors.

Traill County officials report eight more cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, resulting from improperly ventilated generators. A family of six in Dickey County also suffered carbon monoxide poisoning.

3. DAMAGES: The sleet, rain and snow that accompanied this weekend's winter storm added up to 2.66 inches of moisture to areas already inundated by spring runoff. Future rises in tributaries and rivers are expected to occur once the current snowpack melts. However, the National Weather Service reports that melting may be slowed by a Canadian cold front that will keep temperatures below freezing for most of the week.

Snowfall amounts during the April 5-6 storm ranged from 10 to 24 inches throughout the state, with the largest concentrations occurring in the southwest, north central, south central and southeast areas of the state. The largest accumulation occurred in Bowman County, where 24 inches fell. Other notable accumulations include: Bismarck, 17.3 inches; Dickinson, 17.6 inches; Jamestown, 15 inches; LaMoure, 17 inches; Minot, 13 inches; and Sawyer, 16 inches.

Thousands of North Dakotans remain without electricity as electric cooperatives and power companies work to restore power. Ten electric cooperatives report severe damage caused by high winds and ice that toppled hundreds of transmission towers and more than 3,000 power poles. Damage is so extensive that efforts to restore power may take several days in some locations.

Because of electrical outages, flooding and storm conditions, hundreds of North Dakotans continue to seek refuge at shelters throughout the state. As an example, the Golden Manor Nursing Home is sheltering Steele residents, requiring the home's operators to request state assistance in obtaining cots, a generator for supplying power to oxygen equipment and potable water. In Traill County, approximately 800 residents are staying at shelters at schools and fire stations. Wahpeton residents evacuated to shelters included 80 residents of a retirement complex, who were transported by snow mobiles.

The Grand Forks Emergency Management Office has issued a Flood Warning Level II, indicating that the Red River of the North has exceeded 35 feet. The status of North Dakota rivers and tributaries above flood stage are as follows:

Station	Flood 4/8/97 24-hr		Flood of	
	Stage	Stage Difference	Record	
<i>Red River</i>				
Wahpeton	10 ft.	16.28 ft.	-2.90 ft.	18.5 ft.
Fargo	17 ft.	33.26 ft.	+2.37 ft.	37.5 ft.
Halstad, MN	24 ft.	32.06 ft.	+1.14 ft.	39 ft.
East Grand Forks	28 ft.	39.83 ft.	+3.29 ft.	48.8 ft.
<i>Wild Rice</i>				
Abercrombie	10 ft.	24.09 ft.	-2.32 ft.	24.6 ft.
<i>Maple River</i>				
Enderlin	6 ft.	9.48 ft.	No change	15.4 ft.
Mapleton	9 ft.	15 ft.	-0.40 ft. (since 4/5)	15 ft.
<i>Goose River</i>				
Hillsboro	7 ft.	12.89 ft.	-2.17 ft.	16.8 ft.
<i>Sheyenne River</i>				
Cooperstown 12 ft.	14.10 ft.	+0.16 ft.	18.69 ft.	
Lisbon	11 ft.	15.88 ft.	-2.11 ft.	19 ft.
Kindred	16 ft.	21.87 ft.	+0.07 ft.	21.7 ft.
<i>Forest River</i>				
Minto	6 ft.	(No reading available)		11.8 ft.
Fordville	8 ft.	(No reading available)		14.5 ft.
<i>Souris River</i>				
Foxholm	10 ft.	14 ft.	-0.12 ft.	17.71 ft.

Richland County was placed under a flash flood warning late April 7 because of an ice jam on the Bois De Sioux River at its confluence with the Red River. Water was accumulating behind the jam, flooding agricultural land. In Wahpeton, dike protecting the city showed signs of breaching, but volunteers were able to reinforce it with sandbags. Homeowners report sewer and water in basements, foundation damage, and sewer caps blown off drains because of extreme pressure within the sanitary sewer system. Flood waters have now turned to ice and slush, making pumping operations a slow, intensive process.

As a result of power outages, water usage has been disrupted or severely restricted in North

Dakota communities, including the city of Grand Forks residents where have been asked to restrict water usage. The water treatment plant has less than 5-million gallon supply; the average water use is eight million gallons per day. Approximately 3,000 people were without water in Dickey County because of outages. County officials estimate that power may not be restored for a week.

Although the James River level remains high, the river has crested and is slowly falling. The rate the river falls will be slowed by cold temperatures and precipitation from the winter storm. A flood warning remains in effect for the river and its tributaries in Dickey County. The river level in the city of LaMoure was at 13.6 feet on April 7; flood stage is 14 feet.

The Weather Service canceled its flood warning for Apple Creek in Burleigh County. The creek level west of Menoken dropped to 13.7 feet on April 7; flood stage is 15 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The North Dakota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) has activated its member organizations in response to the flood. Initial activities include providing emergency food and shelter and distributing cleanup kits to people affected by the storm and by flooding.

North Dakotans are helping their neighbors dig out from the storm. In Cass County, farmers have been using tractors and dozers to reach stranded neighbors whose access has been cut off by flood waters.

Members of the Radio Amateur Communications Emergency Services (RACES) were working to help restore communications in Cass County, where the storm toppled two towers.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: James Lee Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), announced on April 7 that North Dakota received a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration, within a day of Governor Schafer's request. The President's action makes available federal disaster relief. The declaration, FEMA-1174-DR-ND, covers damages resulting from flooding, severe winter storms, high winds, heavy spring rain, rapid snow melt and ice jams that first started February 28. Residents in each of North Dakota's 53 counties are eligible for hazard mitigation and individual assistance programs to include grants to help pay for temporary housing, minor home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Under the declaration, 40 counties are eligible for cost-share programs for public assistance relief for debris removal and emergency protective measures. FEMA will pay 75 percent of eligible response costs, the state 10 percent, and local governments 15 percent. The counties are as follows: Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McLean, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill,

Walsh, Ward, Wells and Williams.

Lesli Rucker and Pete Bakersky of FEMA's Region VIII Office in Denver has been named Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and Deputy FCO, respectively.

N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) and local road crews are pushing through snow drifts, opening roads that had been closed for more than 48 hours. Except for N.D. Highway 11 in Wahpeton, all state and interstate systems have been reopened.

The N.D. Highway Patrol has activated the first phase of its Emergency Mobilization Plan, placing troopers on 24-hour notice.

The N.D. National Guard has initiated 27 missions in response to the flooding and snow disaster. Missions include delivering 15 generators to cities to run lift stations and water systems; providing emergency transportation; ice dusting rivers to help with ice breakup; providing dike security in Wahpeton; providing dozers to help clear paths for electrical companies; assisting sandbagging operations; and providing a snow blower to the N.D. DOT. The winter storm has postponed ice dusting efforts along the Red River of the North.

During the weekend storm, the mayor of Wahpeton banned all travel within city limits to allow for placement of pumps and equipment and to eliminate sightseers, who are hampering the flood response. The fine for violating the ban was \$500.

Throughout the state, county highway crews cleared roads to enable ambulance crews to respond to medical emergencies. Dickey County road crews rescued a family that had been isolated by large snow drifts. Problems developed when equipment became mired in saturated soils underneath the snow.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

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Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director